

# CHRB NEWS & REVIEW

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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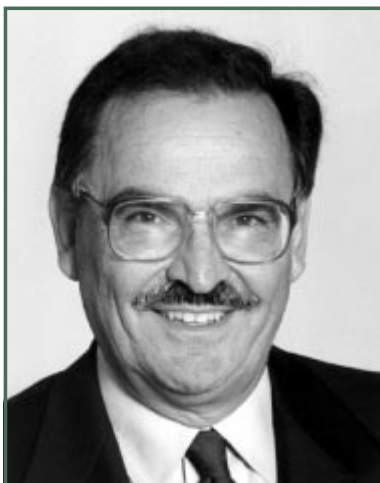
ISSUE 12

## BARDIS ADDS NEW PERSPECTIVE

Christo Bardis has been attending California Horse Racing Board meetings for more than a decade.

The former racetrack operator and former co-owner of Los Alamitos Race Course has repeatedly stood before California's racing commissioners arguing the merits of his case, often on behalf of the harness racing industry.

Since being appointed to the Board by Governor Pete Wilson last March, Bardis remains as committed to the racing industry as ever, only now his words carry even more clout. And his words leave no doubt about his intentions.



CHRISTO BARDIS

"I want to do what I can to make a difference, and I want to help all breeds," explained Bardis. "People get short-sighted and tend to focus only on thoroughbreds, but the California Horse Racing Law clearly encourages the protection of all breeds, not just thoroughbreds.

"All breeds need to be treated equally; they should be thought of in terms of improving their chances for survival, not just in terms of the revenue they generate. The small guy deserves the same chance of survival as the big guy."

(Continued on page 10)

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**T**he California Horse Racing Board recognizes its dual responsibilities to ensure the integrity of horse racing while at the same time promoting the health of the racehorse. This means prohibiting the presence of most drugs in the equine athlete during racing events while permitting certain therapeutic medications essential to the horse's well-being.

The CHRB will continue to vigorously enforce its rules banning the presence of prohibited substances. Such enforcement is essential to protecting the integrity of horse racing.

Meanwhile, the Board is working closely with the University of California at Davis and with other research centers to determine which beneficial medications can safely be permitted without improperly influencing the outcome of a race. This research involves administrative trials to determine, among other things, whether the presence of the medications interferes with testing for other banned substances.

The tests must also show that the medications treat only the designated problem and have no secondary performance-enhancing capabilities.

Phenylbutazone (Bute) and furosemide (Lasix), which deal with inflammation and exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage, are the most common permitted therapeutic medications. After extensive research, the CHRB has added other beneficial therapeutic medications to the list, such as certain anti-ulcer medications necessary to treat the growing problem of gastric ulcers in racehorses.

Even these permitted medications must be administered in a prescribed manner, at limited levels, at specific times. The integrity of horse racing demands nothing less than total compliance with the regulations and policies governing the use of medications.

*Roy C. Wood, Jr.*  
Roy C. Wood, Jr.



## IN THE GOLDEN STATE

# CHRB LICENSING UNIT PUTS EMPHASIS ON CUSTOMER SERVICE

*The CHRB licensing staff worked exceptionally hard in June to get worker's compensation insurance renewed early in order to avoid potential problems, such as having horses scratched due to lapsed policies.*

Laura Sandoval and Janie Belikoff at Los Alamitos met the *Manager's Customer Service Challenge* for June by ranking first and second, respectively, in the entire state among CHRB licensing personnel.

Normally the licensing unit contacts about 50 trainers a month to remind them about worker's compensation insurance renewals, but 200 policies were due to expire on July 1, so Sue Ross, the new licensing manager for the CHRB, challenged the staff to encourage trainers to renew early and avoid potential problems, such as having a horse scratched due to a lapsed policy.

The technicians, who each were assigned the same number of trainers, devised their own methods of contacting them (e.g., by telephone, in writing, or in person).

"The focus of the licensing unit is changing to be more customer service-oriented," said Ross, "and Laura and Janie led everyone in our June contest."

"Customer service is always first with us," said Sandoval, who receives accolades from licensees who appreciate her cheerful smile and gracious personality.

Belikoff said, "Trainers' responses were mainly positive. I received many thank-yous for calling, which was nice."

Technicians Smyrna Calva, Marlene Valencia, Diana Ascanio, Dennis Mattocks, and Joe Tong all worked hard and added to the competitive spirit of the contest. This enthusiasm even spilled over into their contacts with the insurers. For example, one insurance agent, Randy R. Morris of Stanley M. Davis & Company, stood outside the Pleasanton office with a fistful of policies in one hand and a cell phone in the other, calling other trainers and agents to get the policies into any CHRB office.

For their efforts, a plaque engraved with the names of Sandoval and Belikoff will hang in the Los Alamitos office until the next *Challenge*, when another office will have the opportunity to take it to a new location.

"This was an important project for us," said Ross. "When horses scratch for insurance reasons, the owners get upset and the trainer may be in danger of losing a client. We want to do everything we can to keep those horses in races."

The licensing unit has introduced many changes this year. All owners with a current address on file receive a renewal notice by mail, as do trainers, jockeys, and stable-name renewals. Veterinarians also receive word when their veterinary license is due to expire, in addition to the CHRB license.

Trainers who are suspended for lack of insurance receive a letter notifying them of this automatic suspension. Credit cards are now accepted, and the licensing staff is more widely using fingerprint affidavit and reciprocity programs and fax applications for the convenience of applicants.



## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 – Bay Meadows opens in San Mateo.**
- 10 – Fairplex fair meet opens in Pomona.**
- 18 – CHRB monthly meeting in Pomona.**
- 30 – Oak Tree at Santa Anita opens in Arcadia**

### OCTOBER

- 6 – Mixed-breed fair meet opens in Fresno.**
- 16 – Cal-Expo harness meet opens in Sacramento.**
- 30 – CHRB monthly meeting in Arcadia.**

# Voluntary testing program gets boost from TOC

*(News & Review editor Mike Marten wrote the following article as previously published in the California Thoroughbred Trainers magazine.)*

California thoroughbred owners are trying to jump-start racing's human substance-abuse testing effort by donating funds to the sluggish program and encouraging their trainers to test all new job applicants.

John Van de Kamp, president of the Thoroughbred Owners of California, said the TOC Board will contribute \$15,000 to the Winners Foundation for the statewide, backside testing program, which began two years ago in the stable area at Santa Anita, then expanded to Hollywood Park and Del Mar. Later this year the program will be further expanded to Bay Meadows and Golden Gate Fields.

In another promising development, the individual directors of the California Thoroughbred Trainers (CTT) have renewed their commitment to the program and will be actively urging other trainers to participate.

The testing program makes it easy and inexpensive (sometimes free) for trainers to have job applicants tested for prohibited substances before they are hired on permanently. The test is legal, confidential, no disciplinary action is taken against those tested, and trainers are free to hire or not hire regardless of the outcome of the test.

Virtually every thoroughbred trainer in Southern California has been contacted at least once by either Don Murray, director of the Winners Foundation, or Michael Kilpack, supervising investigator for the California Horse Racing Board, and had the program explained to them.

"We talk to them, hand out fliers, and take all the time that's necessary to explain how the program works," said Murray of the Winners Foundation, which is a free and confidential employee assistance program present at every race-track in California.

"We make it easy for them," said Murray. "We provide them with all of the materials they need. We've arranged for

the testing to be done on track at Santa Anita and Del Mar, and during Hollywood Park I personally drive the applicants to the our testing location at nearby Centinela Hospital. The test takes less than one hour.

"I know some trainers have a lot going on and they have other priorities, but everything can be worked out. When someone applies for a job, the trainer can say, 'Sure, I need you to start right now, but in a couple of hours I want you to go get tested. If you're clean, I'll hire you permanently.'

"Cost shouldn't be a great concern," continued Murray. "Oak Tree donated \$6,000 to this program last year, so it has been free at Santa Anita. The cost has been \$20 per test at Hollywood Park, but now that we're getting financial help from the TOC, we are going to make all testing free.

"The benefits are obvious. Substance abusers are notoriously poor workers. They are frequently late, they are inefficient, and they often cause fights in the workplace. Weeding them out results in fewer accidents, it keeps insurance costs down, and it improves morale among the other workers."

Despite its simplicity and the benefits of participating, only 11 trainers have taken full advantage of the program: Julio Canani, Neil Drysdale, Richard Mandella, Dan Hendricks, Mike Mitchell, Dave Hofmans, Kim Lloyd, Doug Peterson, Eddie Truman, Bob Hess, and Jack Van Berg.

"It's very frustrating," explained Kilpack. "Don and I have canvassed the backstretch numerous times and personally

**(Continued on page 3)**



**WE WANT YOU FOR THE CHRB! — Board staffers Wendy Matsuda (left) and Wendy Voss had bright smiles and lots of information for job seekers during a recent job fair in Sacramento.**

***Please help us enforce  
California's racing rules.  
Call (800) 805-7223 to  
report any violations.***





**ALLEN CIBULSKI**

## HE'S NOT THE RETIRING KIND

The CHRB's Winner's  
Circle Award recognizes  
the special contributions  
of staff members.

News & Review editor  
Mike Marten interviewed  
the latest recipient,  
Allen Cibulski.

**A**llen Cibulski doesn't believe in retirement. He views all of life's activities as worthwhile endeavors that require his full attention.

So, when Cibulski leaves the California Horse Racing Board later this year, he won't be entering retirement. He will be accepting new challenges, such as trying to improve his golf score, working with a new computer, and developing his art skills.

"I'm not retiring," insists 65-year-old Cibulski. "I'm going to do other things. I already do calligraphy and painting. I might expand on that and take up animation. Between that and all of my other interests, I won't have time for retirement."

It is exactly this kind of positive attitude – his willingness to work hard and learn new things – that has won the admiration of other CHRB investigators. They collectively nominated him for the CHRB Winner's Circle Award, which is given twice a year in recognition of special contributions by staff members.

Cibulski will be able to hang his Winner's Circle plaque in his Las Vegas home, which will be his base for the next year as he and his wife, Margaret, travel the country.

"We have relatives we want to visit in Maine, Illinois, Missouri, Texas, and Florida," explained Cibulski. "And we may get to Atlanta while we're in the neighborhood. We have a customized Dodge van with a television and plenty of room for me and my bride."

Cibulski has been on the go his entire life. Following four years of service in the Air Force in the late 1950s, including time in Korea, he returned to his native Illinois and was hired by the Chicago Fire Department. But after visiting California, he opted to move west. He became a Los Angeles police officer in 1963. For the next 25 years he moved up steadily from patrol to accident investigations to narcotics to scientific investigations to latent fingerprints to detective headquarters to, fi-

nally, the staff of the Los Angeles Police Commission until his "retirement" from the LAPD in 1987.

"I wanted to keep working, so I took the State Investigators Exam and I guess I did pretty good on that because before long I was getting job offers from the DMV, Food and Ag, the Medical Board, the Department of Corporations, Alcoholic Beverage Control, and the CHRB," said Cibulski. "I've always been a sports enthusiast, so the Horse Racing Board was a match made in heaven."

"I started golfing when I was just a kid, and some sports just came natural to me. I won a lot of club championships when I was young. My handicap is under 10. My bowling average is about 180. I represented the LAPD in the Police Olympics and won in excess of 30 gold medals in golf and bowling. And I was involved in the LAPD's celebrity golf tournament for 10 years."

"I have four sons – Allen, Arthur, John, and Kenneth, who are the pride of my life – and while they were growing up I donated a lot of time to the Little League. I was the public address announcer for the Glendale League."

"So you see, I love sports and I love horse racing. I jumped at the chance to go to work for the commission that regulates the best horse racing in the country."

Michael Kilpack, the supervising investigator for the Southern California thoroughbred circuit, said Cibulski was made to order for the CHRB.

"I wanted an officer with a minimum of 10 years of experience," explained Kilpack. "Ski had worked so many assignments, there was nothing he couldn't do for us. While he was with the Police Commission he worked with licensing, he issued permits, participated in hearings, and he worked with a PC. I want everyone in the horse racing industry to know just how valuable a person he has been to all of us."

**(Continued on page 11)**

# BE OUR GUEST...



***The California Horse Racing Board believes the best way to regulate an industry is to be fully informed. The CHRB regularly solicits input from the public and the horse racing industry, and this guest editorial page is one more forum for that purpose.***

*This guest editorial is provided by Tim Smith, chief executive officer of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA), a coalition committed to increasing*

D.G. Van Clief, my predecessor who nobly served as volunteer CEO, once stated that the NTRA was about “leveraging assets” within the thoroughbred industry to raise the profile of the sport and improve its business.

My statements detailing how the NTRA will fulfill that mission haven’t been quite as polished. In fact, after an interview with a well-known sports columnist, I found myself quoted about “shamelessly copying ideas.”

In the long run, however, whether you’d prefer to be known for “leveraging assets” or “shamelessly copying ideas,” the success of the NTRA will hinge on our ability to utilize the existing industry resources readily available to us. And that is what makes thoroughbred racing in California so important to the NTRA.

Recently the NTRA announced the formation of two task forces, made up of some of our sport’s most savvy marketers, to explore the vital areas of Fan Education/Customer Service and Product Development. The goal for each will be to analyze what’s working at various tracks right now and then repackage those programs in ready-to-use form for all of our member racetracks.

Much of what is working right now for thoroughbred racing is taking place in California, so it behooves the NTRA to take a closer look. Helping us get that look are representatives from California racetracks who are working hard with the task forces and project head Rick Baedeker, who coincidentally joined up with the NTRA from Hollywood Park as our Senior VP of Marketing.

Sharing insights on the Fan-Customer task force are Craig Dado of Santa Anita Park, Julie Sarno of the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, and Sharon Kelly of Bay Meadows. On the Product Enhancement task force, California is represented by Keith Chamblin of Hollywood Park.

Of specific programs already under way and flourishing in California, we’re especially interested in the aggressive database marketing campaign engineered by Santa Anita, which reversed three years of on-track attendance declines with an increase this year.

What we can learn from this successful Santa Anita program may inspire one or more “frequent flier”-type award programs for implementation by other NTRA-member tracks. What’s more, we at the NTRA league office may learn directly from this Santa Anita initiative how to more effectively target fans to become 1998 charter participants in our individual membership program.

The Del Mar Thoroughbred Club offers one of the most effective websites in racing for entertaining and educating its fans, including real-time audio and video race calls. Our task force will look to develop a membership-wide initiative, capitalizing on Del Mar’s prior work in this area, to effectively tap the potential of the Internet in attracting new fans and continuing to engage our existing fans.

Hollywood Park and Del Mar have proven the popularity of the guaranteed \$1 million-plus Pick Six. This concept is well within the purview of the task force and can be greatly enhanced through national advertising and sponsorship efforts by the NTRA.

The NTRA aims to increase the popularity of racing through initiatives aimed at greater on-track attendance and handle, but our focus will not be limited to those objectives. I make this point because there is yet another area in which California has set a standard, with a program that the NTRA endorses and urges other states to implement. I’m referring to the Center for Equine Health at UC-Davis and the vital support it receives from California through a portion of the takeout of the state’s pari-mutuel wagering handle and from the Oak Tree Racing Association.

Thanks to the foresight of the horse racing industry in California, there is work being done daily at UC Davis that benefits our equine athletes and our entire industry from coast to coast. Everyone involved should be proud of the CEH and continue to keep it at the forefront in promoting the health and safety of all horses.

From the racetrack to the research lab, after taking stock of racing’s many assets in California, I’ve concluded that shamelessly copying ideas would be just fine.

# Advisory Committee Issues Report Containing

*The following report was presented to the Board in August. The CHRB Simulcast Operations Committee will analyze the report and develop its own recommendations to the full Board. Attachments to the report that elaborate on the recommendations of the advisory committee may be obtained from the CHRB.*

The California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) created the Simulcast Operations Advisory Committee in 1996 in response to recommendations by the California Horse Racing Industry Advisory Committee and because, with simulcast wagering accounting for 65% of the handle at some California race meets, the need was apparent for a comprehensive review of all aspects of California simulcasting and for a strategic plan to improve the program.

The new advisory committee was asked to inspect and assess the various simulcast facilities in California, analyze the current simulcast product, and address the need for standardization of various elements of the program.

The following members accepted these responsibilities and contributed their personal time to the effort: Richard Cain, executive director, California Authority of Racing Fairs (CARF); Alan Horowitz, executive vice president, Capitol Racing Association; Al Karwacki, general manager, Southern California Off-Track Wagering, Inc. (SCOTWINC); Chris Korby, director of technical operations, CARF; Alan Landsburg, director, Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC); Jack Liebau, president, Bay Meadows; Biff Lowry, SCOTWINC assistant general manager; Bruce Matthias, director of simulcast development, Santa Anita; David Pascale, a racing fan; James Sanzaro, president, Pari-mutuel Employees Guild Local 280; and Norm Towne, executive director, Federation of California Racing Associations.

Roy Wood, executive director of the CHRB, provided direction from the Board, with support from Roy Minami, assistant executive director, and Mike Marten, public information officer and program analyst. Other contributors include Ron Charles, a TOC director; Mike Corley, a California state steward; Dick Feinberg, a veteran of the night racing industry; Cliff Goodrich, president of Santa Anita; and John Van de Kamp, president of the TOC.

While conducting their research and compiling this report, committee members worked closely with racing executives and racetrack personnel, who were receptive to suggestions for immediate improvements. Thus, many positive changes already have occurred in the state's simulcast program as a result of the committee's work.

For example, the on-screen graphics presented by some host tracks have improved tremendously. More totalizator information is being presented to fans, including probable payoffs for exotic wagers. Simulcast facility managers have more options to meet the requests of their patrons, especially relating to the audio signal. And some racetracks are more committed to live broadcasts of their races to home television audiences.

However, the most important work is still ahead. Through extensive research and discussion, the committee developed and agreed upon nine strategic goals for California's simulcast wagering program, which are presented to the CHRB in the form of recommendations. The committee respectfully urges the Board, after discussions with interested parties, to endorse these recommendations and take whatever steps are necessary to bring the state's simulcast program into conformance with their objectives.

It should be noted that since the committee began its work, there have been significant new developments in the horse racing industry that could affect these recommendations. The creation of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, for example, might eliminate or reduce the need for full implementation of Recommendation 3. And at this writing there was a bill pending in Congress (authored by Senator John Kyl) dealing with some aspects of Recommendation 5. The CHRB is encouraged to consider those developments when reviewing the committee report.

# Recommendations for Improving Simulcasting

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Improve and develop the best possible simulcast product for transmission to all simulcast facilities in California and out of state, so as to better entertain and inform simulcast patrons and reflect the fine quality of California horse racing.

Develop a prototype presentation to demonstrate the effectiveness of a coordinated, network-quality, statewide simulcast program tailored to the needs and desires of simulcast patrons.

2) Standardize simulcast operations as much as possible, especially in the area of totalizator information. All California video payoff displays should show payoffs in the lowest denomination available for each wager. Establish consistent formats for operations at all simulcast facilities within the state by developing a set of guidelines and a training program for facility managers and employees.

3) Investigate the creation of a unified marketing program, supported by the State of California, labor, racing associations, and the fairs, to promote horse racing throughout California. The CHRB should commit the staff and resources necessary to help bring this about and to encourage other centralized activities, such as research and development.

4) Coordinate the simulcast sales programs of all racing associations and fairs, so the negotiated price for California simulcasts to out-of-state locations reflects the full value of the product. To this end, the north and south signals should be sold as a single, combined unit.

5) To meet competition from other states and countries, and minimize wagering revenue flowing out of state as a result of telephone and other forms of account wagering in other jurisdictions, seek legislation that would permit the industry to provide the public with a wide range of off-track wagering opportunities. This should involve the enhanced use of the type of equipment, media, and systems by which the simulcast product and associated information is delivered to the public and of the devices and media whereby wagering transactions are conducted. This includes, but is not limited to, voice, data, and image transmission through wireless or other means.

6) In conjunction with the legislation sought by Recommendation 5, allow California tracks to adopt a range of flexible takeout options in order to experiment with new “fan friendly” wagers and to meet the takeout levels and rebates offered by other states and countries.

7) Encourage simulcast facilities to improve their signage and make their locations easily recognizable and apparent to the public.

8) Continue the research begun by the committee for the establishment of a toll-free, statewide racing information line, so that anyone in California can obtain, free of charge, up-to-the minute program changes, race results, and other information relating to all racetrack and simulcast facilities in the state.

9) Further study the concept of combining or coordinating the now separate operations of the Southern California Off-Track Wagering, Inc. (SCOTWINC), and Northern Off-Track Wagering, Inc. (NOTWINC).



spoken to at least 90% of the trainers. Some express interest, but they don't follow up. Others are in denial. They say they don't have a problem at their barn, which we know is not true because the barn area is just like everywhere else in society. The problem is everywhere.

"What have they got to lose? The cost is free or minimal. The results are not reported to the stewards or the CHRB. When advised of the test results, the trainer can hire the applicant, not hire the applicant, or hire the applicant subject to his or her participation in a free rehabilitation program provided by the Winners Foundation. I don't see any downside to this program."

Van de Kamp said horse owners share these concerns.

"A drug-free workplace promotes safety, protects horses, and protects the innocent people who work with the horses," said Van de Kamp. "A clean workplace means reducing the risk of contaminating horses, reducing equine drug positives, and thereby avoiding the redistribution of purses."

"The TOC is very supportive of this effort and has told the Winners Foundation it will help fund a statewide, pre-

## "Why hire somebody else's problem?"

Don Murray

employment program on the premises aimed at testing all racetrack new-hires. We're going to help make it possible for all trainers at all major thoroughbred tracks to have free pre-employment testing.

"Furthermore, we are communicating with every member of the TOC, every thoroughbred owner, encouraging them to get their trainers to participate in the program."

The program started in 1996 with the backing of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (now the CTT). While the CTT Board of Directors continues to support the program in concept, not all directors have participated in the program as individual employers.

"We now have obtained strong commitments from every CTT director that they will actively participate in this program," announced Murray. "They are encouraging all of the other members to do the same."

The testing process is quick and simple. At Santa Anita, trainers send applicants to the California Thoroughbred Horsemen's Foundation clinic located inside Gate 7. At Del Mar, the testing is done at the First Aid Station at the southeast corner of the grandstand. At Hollywood Park, arrangements have been made for testing at Centinela Hospital, located at 555 E. Hardy, a few blocks west of the racetrack. By the end of this year, facilities will be available for trainers at Bay Meadows and Golden Gate Fields.

The test itself utilizes the Roche Ontrak Test Cup, which is a drug-screening field test for human drugs of abuse. Within minutes the presence of amphetamines, cocaine, THC, or morphine is easily determined.

Numerous court decisions have upheld the right of private employers to test job applicants for alcohol and drugs, and according to an American Management Association survey, 85 percent of major U.S. firms now test employees, job applicants, or both for drug use.

The backstretch program is aimed specifically at pre-employment testing, but some trainers have gone so far as to test all their employees.

"If they want to test everyone, that's even better, but we're only asking them to test new-hires," explained Murray. "We're advising them not to hire anyone without testing. Why hire somebody else's problem?"

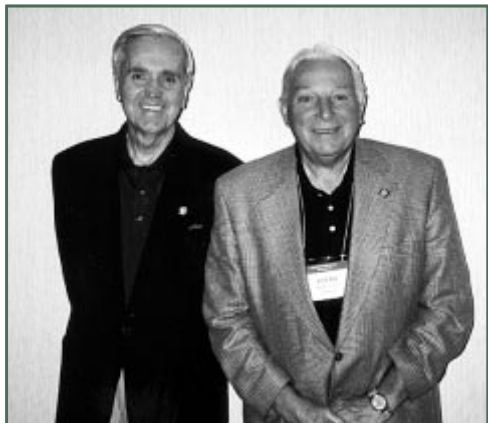


**HOME ON THE RANGE? — CHRB investigators must requalify with firearms quarterly. Arcadia Officer Steve Delgadillo (left) works with CHRB Commissioner Robert Tourtelot (himself a reserve officer with the Los Angeles Police Department), who joined CHRB Chief Investigator Robert Nieto (right) and Supervising Investigator Michael Kilpack during a shoot at the Arcadia Police Department range.**





# FLASHBACKS OF THE RCI CONVENTION



The Association of Racing Commissioners International met in Palm Springs in May to conduct important business relating to enhancing the integrity of racing and providing uniformity in regulation.

The highlight of the four-day session was the election of CHRB Chairman **Ralph Scurfield** to the office of RCI chairman and the naming of Louisiana State Racing Commission Chairman **Albert Stall** to the post of chair-elect. The two men are pictured at top left, with Scurfield to the right.

In his acceptance speech, Scurfield emphasized the need for unity among North American regulators, and he stressed the responsibility of racing commissioners to help maintain the integrity of the horse racing industry.

In other highlights:

**Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lewis**, owners of 1997 Kentucky Derby winner Silver Charm, received the William H. May Award for their “great ambassadorial skills on behalf of horse racing” from RCI President **Tony Chamblin** (far left).

CHRB Chief Information Officer **Mory Atashkar** used the computer for a presentation on the RCI’s new database, which contains more than 1.5 million entries relating to licensees and official rulings.

Prominent thoroughbred trainer **Richard Mandella** spoke to delegates on the topic of racing regulation. He described racing regulations and the effective control of illegal drugs as critical to the integrity of horse racing.

**Dr. Scott Stanley** of the Testing Integrity Program also demonstrated his computer skills during a presentation relating to drug testing standards and practices.

CHRB Commissioner **George Nicholaw** participated in the numerous question and answer sessions that followed each presentation. Like the other delegates, he went home with a much clearer understanding of the RCI’s efforts to improve the regulation of horse racing.



Bardis, at age 62, has all of the experience and tools necessary to accomplish his goals, including a business degree from the University of New Hampshire in 1960 and a law degree, which he received in 1970 from the University of Pacific's McGeorge School of Law.

## RACING ROOTS GO FAR BACK

Bardis has a long association with horse racing dating back to the 1960s, when he worked in various capacities for the New Hampshire Racing Commission. He was an associate judge, or steward, during harness meets at Hinsdale Race Course, and he was a paddock judge at Rockingham Park. He also served as an investigator for the state.

But Bardis had ambitions and strong business skills that led him away from horse racing and into a successful career in home construction. He began with minor refurbishing work. While in law school, he participated in joint ventures, building duplexes and apartments. Later, he got involved with various HUD and Farmers Home programs providing affordable, market-rate residential housing in Northern California. Eventually, he and his partners became the largest builders of single-family homes in the Sacramento area.

Although Bardis never has used his law degree for the actual practice of law, he partially credits his legal background for his success in business and other endeavors.

"Legal studies help provide a good thought process," he explained. "You are better able to articulate and analyze things. The law is a great background for anything you want to do – a great background for a racing commissioner!"

During the early years of building his business, Bardis divorced himself from horse racing, but in 1982 he visited Cal-Expo and ran into an old friend. They started buying horses together. Then he met Lloyd Arnold, who was running the Cal-Expo harness meet, and Bardis wound up purchasing half-interest in a group of 18 horses that Arnold had for sale.

"There turned out to be two outstanding juveniles in the group," said Bardis. "One was the fastest 2-year-old filly in the world, and another was a sensational 2-year-old colt. I don't know that Lloyd and I recouped our investments, but we sure had a good time racing those horses. For me, the hook was set. I was hooked on horse racing once again."

## A FAMILY THING

"My wife, Sara, enjoys the sport as much as I do. She owns horses herself and has been my partner in the business. And our 10-year-old daughter, Katherine, is quite a young horsewoman. She rides hunter-jumpers."

At one point Bardis owned interests in as many as 65 harness horses and thoroughbreds, which he felt was "more than one person should be dealing with," so he trimmed his interests down to 10 horses, which is the size of his stable today.

The harness industry in California fell into hard times in the 1980s, and Bardis turned out to be a great patron of the sport when it needed him the most. When the harness industry required someone to run the Cal-Expo meet in 1985, he agreed to become the track operator.

Bardis stepped forward again in 1989 to purchase Los Alamitos when the harness industry needed its own racetrack. Quarterhorse and standardbred interests were competing with each other at the time for places to run their night meets. The following year, Bardis and his partners at Los

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Racing "has always been a tough business, and today it's tougher still."

Christo Bardis

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Alamitos brought harmony to the overall night industry by selling a 50-percent interest in the track to a prominent quarterhorse owner, Dr. Edward Allred.

"Instead of becoming adversaries, Ed and I became the closest of friends," said Bardis, who this year sold his remaining interest in Los Alamitos to Allred.

## SEARCHING FOR SOLUTIONS

With 17 years of experience as a horse owner and half that time as a racetrack owner, Bardis has a good feel for the current state of horse racing and the direction it is going.

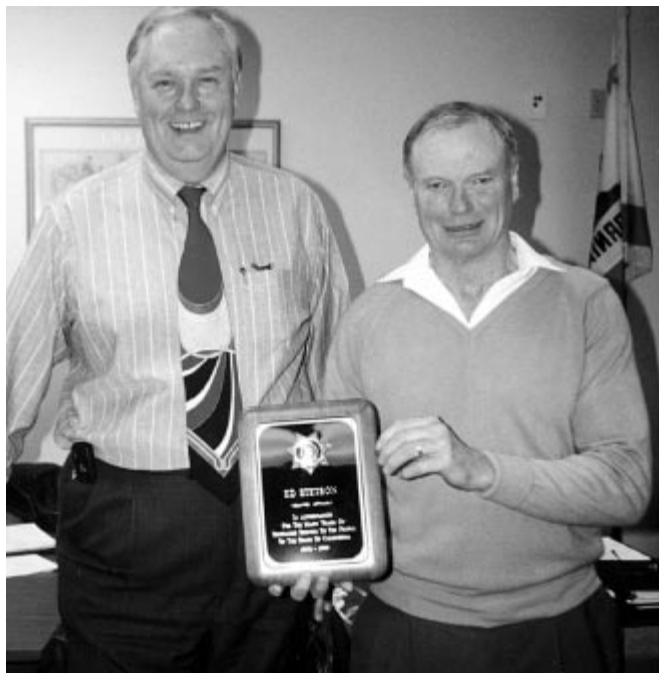
"It has always been a tough business, and today it's tougher still," he said. "Wagering isn't what it used to be. Sure, the numbers are up, but they are deceptive. Most of that money is being wagered off track, especially out of state, so the bottom line is not as good for the owners, trainers, and racetrack operators as it used to be. Everyone is struggling."

"I'm not suggesting that racing is doomed, but it can't just continue doing what it's been doing and expect to survive. Racing needs a shot in the arm. Maybe that means slot machines or account wagering over the Internet. I'm not suggesting a solution, but racing will need to find some other source of revenue."

As a racing commissioner, Bardis will have a vote on important issues facing the horse racing industry. He addressed some of those issues.

"Racing dates are a major issue these days," he began. "It seems to me that if we need to cut races, if we need to cut dates, we might be best off limiting ourselves to five-day race

(Continued on page 11)



**HAPPY RETIREMENT!** — Ed Stetson (right), upon his retirement from the Board, received a plaque from CHRB Executive Director Roy Wood. Stetson spent 20 years with the CHRB and was head of the Hearings Unit at the time of his retirement.

In other personnel developments: Wendy Matsuda (Personnel Office) has been promoted from Staff Services Analyst to Associate Personnel Analyst.

Sue Ross, manager of licensing, has been promoted from Totalisator Systems Examiner to Staff Services Manager I.

Georgia Folkes (Accounting Office) has been promoted from Accounting Officer to Senior Accounting Officer.

Maria Joko has been hired as a Racing License Technician I for the Santa Anita Office.

Barry Gregory, special investigator at Bay Meadows, transferred to the Department of Mental Health.

Connie Resendiz, license technician at Bay Meadows, transferred to the California Highway Patrol.

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## BARDIS

(Continued from page 10)

weeks, or four, or in some cases three days a week. I don't advocate large gaps between meets. I believe continuity is important because otherwise bettors will go somewhere else and might not come back.

"I also read and hear a lot about drugs in racing. If I had my druthers, I wouldn't have any drugs in racing, but I'll reserve judgment until I know enough about all of the medication issues to make a decision. My inclination is to lean on the side of extreme caution in their use.

"There might not be a more important issue in racing than that of field size," Bardis continued. "Bettors prefer large fields. There is a correlation between reduced (on-track) betting and the small fields we've had in recent years. In order to ensure large fields, we must be creative and provide greater incentives for people to own and race horses. Starter fees, for example, might be one way to attract more horses.

"However, if we really want to tackle this problem of small fields in a meaningful way, it has to start with breeding. I am a strong believer in our state breeding program. I feel the future of racing in California will depend on the success of our breeding program. As racing commissioners, we must do what we can to encourage breeding in this state."



## CIBULSKI

(Continued from page 4)

Robert Nieto, chief investigator for the Board, noted that Cibulski requires "very little direction...he is so conscientious, he leaves no stones unturned on any investigation. That's Cibulski's personal drive for perfection and the past LAPD training. He will be missed. He's a consummate professional."

The Board trusted Cibulski with some of its most high-profile cases, which Cibulski presented to the Board of Stewards in administrative hearings.

"He always has been very thorough and professional in the way he has gone about his business," said steward Dennis Nevin. "It is obvious to us that he has an extensive law enforcement background. He never handles licensees with a heavy hand. He always treats everyone with respect."

Cibulski conceded that he sometimes felt overmatched when sitting across from skilled attorneys at those administrative hearings, but then he added with a smile of satisfaction, "I didn't always come out second best."

He summed up his life to date with the simple statement, "I've been lucky, very lucky."

And so have we.



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